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03/02/2011-Minutes

OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE Minutes of March 2, 2011 Meeting Approved, April 6, 2011

In attendance: Lisa Decker, Joey Glushko, Elizabeth Karpati, Patsy Kraemer, Ann LeRoy, Leslie Mayer, David White. **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

- The minutes of the January meeting were accepted as presented.
- Ann has submitted the annual report of the Open Space Committee to the Town Manager's office for the Town's annual report to be distributed to Town Meeting in April.
- The Mill Brook working group will meet on March 10. Andy West has sent around a report on the proposed overlay district which he calls the "Mill District."
- The Town has hired a GIS coordinator to start working at the end of March as part of the IT department. Dave Barry is leaving the Planning and Community Development Department.
- Last year the Town tried to get a grant to buy the Mugar property but without success. The Open Space Committee voted to adopt the 2007-14 Open Space and Recreation Plan which states as a goal that the property should remain open space. The Arlington Redevelopment Board has also voted to adopt this plan. If Mugar now tries to sell the property for a 40B development, the ARB can state that this would be against Town policy. The state can deny approval for a 40B plan that goes against a town's policy.
- A large development with hundreds of apartments is planned for the former "Faces" property, located in Cambridge across Rt. 2 from Mugar.
- The Lexington committee dealing with Busa Farm recommended that it should become a community farm with some affordable housing. The final decision is up to the Lexington Board of Selectmen.
- Plans for the habitat garden at the Reservoir are moving forward and will be presented to the Con Com this week.
- The EcoFest on March 26 will feature Bill Reed as speaker and will be accompanied by an eco-themed art exhibit by Gail McCormick and her daughter.
- The Tree Committee is looking for volunteers to plant street trees and then care for them – perhaps a captain in each precinct to organize volunteers. People who want a tree should contact the committee. It plans to hold a tree-planting demonstration in April.
- The rain garden originally planned for Magnolia Field with a \$1000 NEGEF grant will be sited in a different location not yet finalized. Sally Naish will help plan it. It will have an educational component. Approval from Park & Rec and possibly the Con Com will be needed.
- In Wellington Park the five tennis courts will be redone and old unsafe playground equipment will be removed.
- Design of the fenced off-leash dog park planned for Thorndike Field is to start soon.
- The last part of the meeting was spent reviewing Chapter 9, Section 2b of the Open Space Plan.